

HOUSE BILL 123

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated sections:

49-7-1__.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Military Education Assistance for Tennessee Act”.

(b) A veteran enrolled at a public institution of higher education shall be charged for tuition and fees no more than the maximum tuition reimbursement provided under the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for eligible Tennessee residents; provided, that the veteran:

(1) Was honorably discharged from a branch of the United States armed forces or the national guard;

(2) Is eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits; and

(3) Enrolls in a public institution of higher education after satisfying all admission requirements within twenty-four (24) months from the date of honorable discharge as reflected on the veteran's certificate of release or discharge from active duty (United States department of defense form 214).

(c) A veteran qualifying for the tuition rate under this section shall:

(1) Maintain continuous enrollment as defined by the public institution of higher education at which the veteran is enrolled; and

(2) Within one (1) year of enrolling in the public institution of higher education:

(A) Register to vote in this state; or

(B) Demonstrate by objective evidence intent to be a resident of Tennessee by obtaining at least two (2) of the following:

(i) A Tennessee driver license;

(ii) A Tennessee motor vehicle registration;

(iii) Proof of established employment in the state; or

(iv) Other documentation clearly evidencing domicile or residence in the state.

49-7-1__.

(a) Members of the Tennessee state guard are eligible for enrollment in one (1) course per term at any state-supported college or university, technology center or the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees, registration fees or online course fees for courses taken through the regents online degree programs; provided, that availability of waivers of online course fees for courses taken through the regents online degree program shall be limited each year by the amount of funds specifically appropriated for such online course fee waivers in the general appropriations act.

(b) Spouses of members of the Tennessee state guard are eligible for a fifty percent (50%) discount in tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees, registration fees or online course fees for courses taken through the regents online degree programs for one (1) course per term; provided, that availability of waivers of online course fees for courses taken through the regents online degree program shall be limited each year by the amount of funds specifically appropriated for such online course fee waivers in the general appropriations act.

(c) To be eligible for the tuition waiver or tuition discount provided for in this subsection (g), a person shall be required to provide proof of current active duty

membership with at least one (1) year of prior service in the Tennessee state guard by the person or the person's spouse.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.